

**What is claimed is:**

1. A networked font rendering system comprising:  
means adapted for acquiring vector data representative of a vector based font;  
rendering means adapted for rendering at least a portion of the vector based font  
to generate font images corresponding thereto;  
font storage means adapted for storing the font images on a networked memory;  
means adapted for receiving a font request from at least one networked  
workstation; and  
communication means adapted for selectively communicating the font images to  
generate document print data in accordance with a request from the at least one networked  
workstation.
2. The networked font rendering system of claim 1 wherein the communication  
means includes means adapted for communicating the font images to the at least one networked  
workstation.
3. The networked font rendering system of claim 1 wherein the communication  
means includes means adapted for communicating the font images to an associated printing  
device.
4. The networked font rendering system of claim 1 wherein the means adapted for  
receiving a font request from at least one networked workstation includes:  
means adapted for prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font;  
means adapted for receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user  
for a font; and  
means adapted for requesting the font in accordance with the user selection data.
5. The networked font rendering system of claim 4 wherein the means adapted for  
prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font includes means adapted for  
displaying selected information about each font which is available for selection.

6. The networked font rendering system of claim 5 wherein the means adapted for displaying selected information about each font includes at least one of font type, font size, and font style for each font.

7. The networked font rendering system of claim 5 wherein the selection data includes at least one of font type, font size, font style, tab information, location of font within document, and font format.

8. The networked font rendering system of claim 1 further comprising updating means adapted for updating font storage means for selected font information received in a font request from at least one networked workstation.

9. The networked font rendering system of claim 8 further comprising means adapted for deleting selected font information from the font storage means upon at least one of a predetermined time interval in which the font has not been requested and a request received from an associated user.

10. A method for rendering fonts in a networked system comprising the steps of:  
acquiring vector data representative of a vector based font;  
rendering at least a portion of the vector based font to generate font images corresponding thereto;  
storing the font images on a networked memory;  
receiving a font request from at least one networked workstation; and  
selectively communicating the font images to generate document print data in accordance with a request from the at least one networked workstation.

11. The method for rendering fonts of claim 10 further comprising the step of communicating the font images to the at least one networked workstation.

12. The method for rendering fonts of claim 10 further comprising the step of communicating the font images to an associated printing device.

13. The method for rendering fonts of claim 10 wherein the step of receiving a font request from at least one networked workstation includes:

prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font;  
receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user for a font; and  
requesting the font in accordance with the user selection data.

14. The method for rendering fonts of claim 13 wherein step of prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font includes displaying selected information about each font which is available for selection.

15. The method for rendering fonts of claim 14 wherein the selected information displayed about each font includes at least one of font type, font size, and font style.

16. The method of rendering fonts of claim 13 wherein the selection data includes at least one of font type, font size, font style, tab information, location of font within document, and font format.

17. The method of rendering fonts of claim 10 further comprising the step of updating font storage means for selected font information received in a font request from at least one networked workstation.

18. The method of rendering fonts of claim 17 further comprising the steps of deleting selected font information from the font storage means upon at least one of a predetermined time interval in which the font has not been requested and a request received from an associated user.

19. A computer-readable medium for a networked font rendering system comprising:  
means adapted for acquiring vector data representative of a vector based font;  
rendering means adapted for rendering at least a portion of the vector based font to generate font images corresponding thereto;

font storage means adapted for storing the font images on a networked memory;  
means adapted for receiving a font request from at least one networked  
workstation; and

communication means adapted for selectively communicating the font images to  
generate document print data in accordance with a request from the at least one networked  
workstation.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the communication means  
includes means adapted for communicating the font images to the at least one networked  
workstation.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the communication means  
includes means adapted for communicating the font images to an associated printing device.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein the means adapted for  
receiving a font request from at least one networked workstation includes:  
means adapted for prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font;  
means adapted for receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user  
for a font; and  
means adapted for requesting the font in accordance with the user selection data.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein the means adapted for  
prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font includes means adapted for  
displaying selected information about each font which is available for selection.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 19 further comprising updating means  
adapted for updating font storage means for selected font information received in a font request  
from at least one networked workstation.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 24 further comprising means adapted for  
deleting selected font information from the font storage means upon at least one of a

predetermined time interval in which the font has not been requested and a request received from an associated user.

26. A computer-implemented method for rendering fonts in a networked system comprising the steps of:

- acquiring vector data representative of a vector based font;
- rendering at least a portion of the vector based font to generate font images corresponding thereto;
- storing the font images on a networked memory;
- receiving a font request from at least one networked workstation; and
- selectively communicating the font images to generate document print data in accordance with a request from the at least one networked workstation.

27. The computer-implemented method for rendering fonts of claim 26 further comprising the step of communicating the font images to the at least one networked workstation.

28. The computer-implemented method for rendering fonts of claim 26 further comprising the step of communicating the font images to an associated printing device.

29. The computer-implemented method for rendering fonts of claim 26 wherein the step of receiving a font request from at least one networked workstation includes:

- prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font;
- receiving user selection data resultant from a prompt of a user for a font; and
- requesting the font in accordance with the user selection data.

30. The computer-implemented method for rendering fonts of claim 29 wherein step of prompting an associated user for selection data to select a font includes displaying selected information about each font which is available for selection.

31. The computer-implemented method of rendering fonts of claim 26 further comprising the step of updating font storage means for selected font information received in a font request from at least one networked workstation.

32. The computer-implemented method of rendering fonts of claim 31 further comprising the steps of deleting selected font information from the font storage means upon at least one of a predetermined time interval in which the font has not been requested and a request received from an associated user.